

SUBJECT: Safe Haven	NUMBER: 1-30.01
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DATE:
NMMLEPSC STANDARDS: None	APPROVED: Sheriff

I. POLICY

It is the Policy of the department to provide a “Safe Haven” site for infants of 90 days or less in age, as required by NMSA 1978 Section 24-22-4.

II. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. The Sheriff’s Department is designated a Safe Haven Site.
- B. All personnel shall accept an infant who is left with the department.
- C. A person may leave an infant with the department without being subject to criminal prosecution for abandonment or abuse if the infant is ninety day old or less.
- D. Department personnel may ask the person leaving the infant the name of the biological mother or father, infant’s name, and any medical conditions, however they are not required to provide the information.
- E. Department personnel will ask the person leaving the infant whether the infant has a parent who is a member of an Indian Tribe. They are not required to answer however this will be documented in the incident report.
- F. Once an infant has been accepted the following actions will be taken.
 1. Call for medical personnel to evaluate the infant
 2. If there are any injuries, photographs will be taken and documented;
 3. If the infant child is not of an Indian Tribe then contact CYFD to obtain custody of the infant child;
 4. If the parents are of an Indian Tribe, contact BIA to obtain custody of the infant child;
 5. An incident report will be made documenting what occurred.

When a person leaves an infant child at a “Safe Haven” site they are not required by law to provide any information regarding themselves or the infant child. Personnel should make every effort to obtain as much information regarding the infant child and their medical history/concerns as possible without violating the “Safe Haven for Infants Act”.